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Agenda item 21 (b)
Globalization and interdependence: culture and sustainable development

South Africa:* draft resolution

Promoting inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 66/288 of 27 July 2012, in which it endorsed the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled "The future we want",[1]

Recalling also its resolution 68/309 of 10 September 2014, in which it welcomed the report of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals[2] and decided that the proposal of the Open Working Group contained in the report should be the main basis for integrating sustainable development goals into the post-2015 development agenda, while recognizing that other inputs would also be considered, in the intergovernmental negotiation process at the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly,

Recalling further its resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005 on public administration and development, and resolutions 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012 and 68/198 of 20 December 2013 on information and communication technologies for development, as well as resolutions 66/209 of 22 December 2011 and 69/228 of 19 December 2014 on promoting and fostering the efficiency, acccuntability, effectiveness and transparency of public administration by strengthening supreme audit institutions,

Emphasizing the growing need to strengthen public institutions and public services in support of sustainable development,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Resolution 66/288, annex.

[2] A/68/970 and Corr.1.

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Reaffirming that States and observer States have the sovereign right and responsibility to decide, in accordance with their own development policy, strategies, needs and priorities, on their public administration management,

Emphasizing that efficient, accountable, effective, inclusive and transparent public institutions and public services at all levels have a key role to play in the implementation of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals and the sustainable development goals of the post-2015 development agenda to be adopted at the United Nations summit in September 2015,

Recalling the request made to the Secretary-General to support information exchange and research and to disseminate successful practices and advisory services in public administration that contribute to achieving the internationally agreed development goals,

Recognizing the work of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration of the Economic and Social Council in providing policy advice to the Council and to Member States and observer States on issues related to public administration in development, and the contributions of the United Nations Public Administration Online Network as an implementation tool for the exchange of information and experience in public administration and public services for development,

Recalling the need to promote knowledge-sharing and the exchange of experience related to the role of public administration in the implementation of internationally agreed goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,[3]

Recognizing the potential of e-government in promoting transparency, accountability, efficiency and citizen engagement in public service delivery,

Taking note with appreciation of the support provided by the United Nations system to developing countries and countries with economies in transition in capacity-building in public sector leadership, inclusive and accountable institutions, human resources capacity development, e-government and citizen engagement in managing development programmes,

Stressing the need for capacity-building as a tool to promote development, and welcoming the cooperation of the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions with the United Nations in this regard,

1. *Reaffirms* that the United Nations has a central role to play in promoting international cooperation in strengthening public institutions and public services for sustainable development;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the foundations for sustainable development at all levels include transparent, inclusive, participatory and accountable public institutions and professional, ethical, responsive and information and communications technology-enabled public services;

3. *Urges* the international community to promote the exchange of information, the exchange of experiences and the sharing of lessons learned and best

[3] Resolution 55/2.

practices, as appropriate, in strengthening inclusive and accountable public institutions and public services;

4. *Encourages* Member States and observers to promote effective and accountable leadership, high standards of professionalism, ethics, integrity, transparency, accountability, responsiveness, efficiency and effectiveness in public institutions and the delivery of public services at the national and local levels;

5. *Also encourages* Member States and observers to continue to support capacity-building in the public sector and the civil service and institution-building at the national, local and municipal levels by, inter alia, encouraging innovation in public services, fully harnessing the potential benefits of information and communications technologies in all areas of government, engaging citizens and encouraging public participation in implementing sustainable development;

6. *Stresses* the important role of Governments in the effective use of information and communications technologies in their design of public policies and in the provision of public services responsive to national and local needs and priorities, including on the basis of a multi-stakeholder approach, to support national development efforts;

7. *Recognizes* the positive contribution from some countries of traditional knowledge, such as the Andean principles of *ama suwa* ("do not be a thief"), *ama llulla* ("do not be a liar") and *ama qhilla* ("do not be lazy"), to strengthen individual and societal commitments in order to, inter alia, improve the efficiency, effectiveness and transparency of public administration and promote inclusive and accountable public services for sustainable development;

8. *Calls for* renewed efforts to promote diversity and inclusion in public services and to enhance equality in access to services by all, especially persons with disabilities, the elderly, women, youth, children and other disadvantaged groups;

9. *Encourages* Member States and observers and relevant United Nations institutions to continue and to intensify their cooperation, including in capacity-building, with the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions in order to promote good governance at all levels by ensuring efficiency, accountability, effectiveness and transparency through strengthened supreme audit institutions, including, as appropriate, the improvement of public accounting systems;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to provide assistance, in particular to developing countries and countries with economies in transition, at their request, in their efforts to strengthen public institutions and public services for sustainable development by, inter alia, fostering information-sharing and the exchange of experience, lessons learned and best practices, as appropriate, including through United Nations Public Service Day, the United Nations Public Service Awards and the United Nations Public Administration Network, providing assistance in institution-building and improving the integration and coordination, as well as the innovation, of public sector initiatives and activities in sustainable development;

11. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution.